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# WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA

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## A PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

HE Publishers feel deeply moved by the magnificent reception that is being given throughout the continent to their representations in these pages of the "Wild Flowers." From the moment the first copy of the first part was seen a steady stream of congratulatory messages set in, growing in volume day by day, until now they assume the nature of a national ovation. The publishers were prepared for an enormous demand but scarcely expected to see such significant evidence of a really intense yearning to secure the work. The furore is not confined to botanists, or teachers, or artists, or simply to lovers of nature. The whole population, appreciative of the value of the publication from an educational standpoint, are taking the most extraordinary precautions to secure it for their children in particular, and in tens of thousands of cases for grown members of their families. Numbers of people in receipt of the first parts are writing to ask if they may send their own copies to friends at a distance and procure second copies for themselves. The demand is of such a phenomenal character that we feel bound to say to subscribers that they incur great danger in parting with any of their copies of "Wild Flowers of America," even in the hope that they can get substitutes. Everything possible will be done to satisfy the demand, but there is a limit to human possibilities, and there is imminent danger of the supply being unequal to the strain.

After all, is it surprising that there should be found so much enthusiasm over the publication when it is remembered that this is the first time in this country that an attempt has been made to acquaint the people with the wild flowers of the continent? The best minds love the wild flowers, but it is of interest nationally that all classes should know them, when to know them is to love them.

Longfellow was passionately fond of all kinds of flowers. The wild flowers of his native land were his inspiration and his consolation in affliction. He knew them well, and the lessons they taught him he gave to the world in exquisite verse. They were to him the link that bound body to soul, earth to heaven, and in his eyes the humblest of them was robed in the glory of paradise. He found in them emblems of childhood, maidenhood, maturity and age. He lived among them, communed with them, and owed to his appreciation of and sympathy with them a large portion of his fame. He sincerely regretted the ignorance of his fellows upon the rare beauty of the wild flowers upspringing about them, and he made it one of the objects of his life to draw their attention to their extraordinary richness by means of his verse. One can scarcely turn a page of his works without seeing his eagerness to bring the flowers into prominence. From his "Flower-de-luce" to his "Reaper and the Flowers," his poems are saturated with his love of the wild flowers, and his yearning to teach others to love them, and, as he said of Burns, so may it be said of him :

"Touched by his hand, the wayside weed  
Becomes a flower; the lowliest reed  
Beside the stream  
Is clothed with beauty; gorse and grass  
And heather, where his footsteps pass  
The brighter seem."

\*\* Technical explanations of the parts of flowers will be found at the end of Part Number 1. The chapters on "Curious Facts About Flowers" will be found in the later numbers in convenient place to bind with the volumes. To these and the index all owners of the entire parts will be entitled without extra charge, and should see they get them.



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ASTER PUNICEUS.

PURPLE ASTER.

AUG.—SEPT.



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BRASSICA NIGRA

BLACK MUSTARD.

JUNE.

PLATE 33.

PURPLE ASTER. ASTER PUNICEUS. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

*Stem tall, usually four to six feet high, much branched, hairy, sometimes purple, leaves rather long, broadly lanceolate, auricled and clasping at base, acute, sparingly serrate; heads rather large, arranged on the branches of the stem so as to form a large panicle; rays lilac. Perennial.*



N those sad, sweet days when the reluctant earth lingers in the warm embrace of summer, loath to enter her frosty prison house, when

“ The maples reddens in the sun,  
In autumn gold the beeches stand,”—

then the “ broad-headed asters ” blow in wood and field. How fair they are, these late flowers. What exquisite tints their rays reveal. White and palest azure, delicate lavender, amethystine blue, violet, rich purple—a glorious company they are, the asters.

As handsome and showy as any is *Aster puniceus*. A meadow where

“ The golden rod is leaning,  
And the purple aster waves,”—

is truly a noble sight. Bright yellow golden rod, rich purple aster, crown and royal robe of the queen-time of the year. It is fit that such colors should deck the earth in the autumn season, when the apple trees bend beneath their load of ruddy fruit and the corn yellows in its generous ripeness. Ah, sad though the autumn be it is yet a joyous season ! A rich pleasure it is to walk afield, to breathe the pure, fragrant air, to crunch the dry leaves under foot, to view the thousand tints of spiring flame and gold around us, and to see the merry asters nodding from copse and roadside.

PLATE 34.

BLACK MUSTARD. BRASSICA NIGRA. (CRESS FAMILY.)

*Stem smooth, erect, much branched, two to four feet high; leaves pinnately divided, the terminal division much the largest, variously lobed and toothed; flowers disposed in racemes on the branches, small, petals four, sulphur-yellow in color; stamens six, two of them longer.*



To the cress family we are indebted for many of our most prized vegetables. The cabbage, the cauliflower, the turnip are of this alliance. Here, too, belong those crisp, biting herbs that are such delightful relishes for the table—the radish, horse-radish, mustard and cress. It is to the acrid, essential oil which pervades these plants that their delicious pungency is due. Perhaps no other family, except the roses, peas and grasses, are so useful to us.

Mustard has long been used in medicine and as a table condiment. But it was not until the eighteenth century that the idea of grinding the seeds and mixing the powder with water was first conceived. The inventor of the new palate-tickler was an Englishwoman. Her preparation was submitted to that lover of good things, George I. His Majesty tasted and approved. Thus was the popularity of mustard as a table article ensured. The black mustard, *brassica nigra*, is the best sort, but is comparatively rare and expensive. The seeds of the white mustard, *brassica alba*, are usually mixed with it. In Palestine the black mustard attains a great height; to this the Master alluded when he spoke the parable of the mustard seed.



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POTENTILLA CANADENSIS.

FIVE-FINGER

MAY.



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DAPHNE MEZEREAUM.

MEZEREAUM.

MAY.

PLATE 35.

FIVE-FINGER. POTENTILLA CANADENSIS. (ROSE FAMILY.)

*Hairy stems decumbent, sending out runners later in the season; leaves ternate, but with the lateral leaflets divided so as to give the appearance of five leaflets, petioled; leaflets ovate or obovate, coarsely toothed; flowers on slender axillary peduncles; petals five, pale yellow. Perennial.*



LOWERS are oft cherished not only for their intrinsic beauty, but for their power to recall the golden moments of life. Have lovers' hands never been unclasped to gather flowers just as beautiful as the anemone, the spring-beauty, and the violet? So it would seem, for there is in every field a witchery which has no recorded spell among all the tributes of the poets.

“There is no glory in star or blossom  
Till looked upon by a loving eye.”

No loving eye has fallen upon the modest little five-finger; its beauty is unpraised.

Many a stony field owes much to the five-finger. Kindly and with pity the bright little cups of gold and the strawberry-like leaves cover and conceal the barren ugliness of ground which prouder flowers would scorn to shade. Like the lichens and hepaticas that hide the gray rock-surfaces 'neath a mantle of green and purple, red and brown, the mission of the five-finger is to protect and adorn. It is the spirit of sweet charity embodied.

The five-finger or cinquefoil is of a goodly family. The fair rose, the luscious cherry, the fragrant strawberry are its kinsfolk. Though our modest flower has neither scent nor tempting fruit, Nature has given a tender beauty to its blossoms. The plant is common throughout most of eastern North America, flowering from early spring to midsummer.

PLATE 36.

MEZEREUM. DAPHNE MEZEREUM. (MEZEREUM FAMILY.)

*A small branching shrub; leaves thick, oblong-lanceolate, smooth; flowers clustered, appearing with or before the leaves; petals none; calyx purplish-pink, salver-shaped, four-lobed; stamens eight in number, borne on the calyx-tube; stigma capitate, sessile or nearly so; flowers succeeded by red berries.*



HEN time was young and gods and goddesses came to earth in search of human loves, Apollo wooed the water-nymph, Daphne. Most beautiful of the nymphs was Daphne, daughter of Gaea, the spirit of the earth. But the passion of the god awoke no response within her breast, she fled from his advances. At last, to escape his too ardent pursuit, she transformed herself into a laurel bush. Thus her name has become that of the laurel-like mezereum. Our Daphne is not so unkind to the sun-god. In earliest spring she welcomes his kisses with a rosy blush.

To lay aside the allegory, Daphne Mezereum, like two of our native shrubs of an allied family, spice-bush and sassafras, flowers before the leaves are developed. These precocious flowers have an odd appearance as they appear on the almost naked branches, whilst the leaves are still in the bud or just opening. The mezereum is a handsome shrub, whether we judge it by the rose-purple flowers, by the shiny green leaves or by the pretty red berries.

The mezereum, like the laurel, is a native of Southern Europe. It has long been cultivated in gardens and has escaped here and there in the Eastern part of our country, especially in regions near the sea coast. Its nearest ally among our native plants is the tough-barked moosewood.



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VERONICA SERPYLLIFOLIA.

THYME-LEAVED SPEEDWELL.

MAY.



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HYOSCYAMUS NIGER.

BLACK HENBANE.

MAY—JUNE.

PLATE 37.

THYME-LEAVED SPEEDWELL. *VERONICA SERPYLLIFOLIA*. (FIGWORT FAMILY.)

*Glabrous or nearly so; stems creeping, branching; leaves opposite, ovate or elliptical, short-petioled, rather minutely toothed, the upper reduced to bracts; flowers in the axils of the uppermost leaves, forming a terminal raceme; corolla salver-shaped, pale blue, pod inversely heart-shaped. Perennial.*

HE speedwells have been looked upon as flowers of good fortune. As the name indicates, to present the parting guest with a sprig of speedwell was to ensure him safety and success in his journeyings.

The Latin name of the genus is traced to a pretty legend. When Jesus, the cross on his shoulder, was approaching the place of crucifixion, a maiden pitied his sufferings and gave him her handkerchief. The Saviour wiped the sweat and blood from his face with it; and lo, a perfect impression of his countenance appeared on the cloth! Ever since the true likeness (vera iconica) has been preserved at St. Peter's and is revered as possessing marvelous healing power. The maid was canonized and is known as St. Veronica. Some of the speedwells were formerly valued as remedies, hence the application of the name to them.

When

“The May sun sheds an amber light  
On new-leaved woods and lawns between,”

then, at grassy roadside and on mossy bank look for the sky-blue spikes of the thyme-leaved speedwell. Creeping among the grass blades, almost hidden from sight, modest and retiring, is this little flower. One must look closely or the tiny blossoms will elude the eye.

PLATE 38.

BLACK HENBANE. *HYOSCYAMUS NIGER*. (NIGHTSHADE FAMILY.)

*Leafy; whole plant viscid-pubescent; stem erect, one or two feet high, round leaves, large, with clasping bases, ovate or oblong, coarsely toothed; flowers large, sessile in the axils of the leaves, forming somewhat unilateral, terminal racemes; corolla funnel-shaped yellowish with dark veins.*



BOUT old buildings and in waste grounds a curious, ill-smelling weed is sometimes met with—the henbane. The plant itself is coarse, but the large, funnel-shaped flowers are rather handsome. They are of a pale yellow, beautifully veined with dark purple. Nevertheless the weed has a suspicious look, the very coloring of the blossoms reminding us of that of venomous serpents. Appearances are not deceptive in this case. The henbane contains a highly poisonous principle, hyoscyamine. It is especially fatal to fowls that eat the seeds, hence the popular name. *Hyoscyamus* is from two Greek words signifying “hog's beans,” for hogs are said to eat the plant with impunity.

Hyoscyamus has been much used in medicine. In excess it causes loss of speech and distortion. Wisely prescribed it is of high value. Quoth quaint George Herbert:

“The herbs do gladly heal our flesh  
Because that they find their acquaintance there.”

The plant was esteemed as a drug in very ancient times. It is a native of Europe, and has become naturalized here.

The henbane is related to some of our most useful vegetables and to some of our deadliest poisons. The potato, tomato and egg-plant are its relatives, as well as the black nightshade, the stramonium and atropa belladonna. In which category, of banes or blessings, to place the tobacco plant is a matter of individual taste.



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CENOOTHERA BIENNIS.

EVENING PRIMROSE.

JULY.



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LYCOPSIS ARVENSIS.

SMALL BUGLOSS.

JULY.

PLATE 39.

EVENING-PRIMROSE. OENOTHERA BIENNIS. (EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

*Biennial, more or less hairy; stem erect, usually three to five feet high; leaves oblong-lanceolate, the lower four or five inches long, short-petioled, dentate; flowers large, in long terminal racemes; petals four, yellow, with the calyx-limb borne on the summit of the ovary.*



Y the setting sun the western sky is crimsoned. The birds fly homeward. The hum of the bee gives place to the shrill note of the "Katy-did."

"One by one the flowers close,  
Lily and dewy rose,  
Shutting their tender petals from the moon."

But look! This homely wayside weed which showed to the bright sun only unopened buds or withered flowers is undergoing a transformation. The buds expand into large, pale yellow flowers, exhaling a delicious perfume. Wondrous instinct, this of

"The flowers that blow when the heat of the day is o'er."

Why do some flowers open at evening while their neighbors love the broad day-light? We cannot tell, any more than we can account for the night-loving habits of owl or whippoorwill. It may be that the oenothera has chosen the night time that it may be fertilized by night-flying insects. Perhaps the whippoorwill has acquired nocturnal habits in order to feed on such insects!

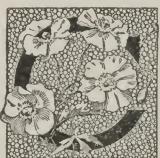
Night-flowering is not an uncommon habit with tropical plants. The lovely "night-blooming cereus" of conservatories, the familiar moon-flower are nocturnal bloomers. Northern flowers more rarely open by night. Possibly in cool climates where there is no tropical superabundance of vegetation, all plants have a better chance of fertilization in the daytime.

PLATE 40.

SMALL BUGLOSS. LYCOPSIS ARVENSIS. (BORAGE FAMILY.)

*Whole plant covered with rough hairs: stem branching, six to eighteen inches high; leaves oblong, the lower petioled, the upper clasping, coarsely toothed; flowers in terminal, bracted racemes; calyx conspicuous; corolla small, funnel-shaped with a curved tube, blue; nutlets four, wrinkled.*

"There poppies, nodding, mock the hope of toil;  
There the blue bugloss paints the sterile soil."



RABBE classes the bugloss with the poppy as an injurious field-weed. So it is in England and Europe generally. It is making its appearance in waste ground and near dwellings here, but is hardly enough at home yet to have become a dangerous weed.

Though the stem and leaves are coarse and covered with rough hairs, the flowers redeem the lycopsis from the charge of ugliness. They are bright blue with red stamens, forming a very pretty combination. When growing in large numbers the effect of the plants in flower is quite striking. The name "bugloss" is applied to several related plants. The lycopsis is properly "small bugloss." The "viper's bugloss" or "blue weed" (Echium), is naturalized in the Eastern States, especially in Virginia. It has blue flowers like those of the small bugloss, but considerably larger. The borage family, to which these plants belong, is composed chiefly of coarse, rough, hairy weeds. A notable exception is the beautiful Virginia lungwort or bluebells (Mertensia) which is quite smooth.

PLATE 41.

TRAILING ARBUTUS, MAYFLOWER. EPIGÆA REPENS. (HEATH FAMILY.)

*Stems creeping, covered with long, reddish hairs; suffruticose; leaves petioled, alternate, ovate, heartshaped, thick, evergreen; flowers in dense clusters; corolla pink, funnel-shaped, much exceeding the calyx, hairy in the throat; flowers of two kinds, one with short style and long filaments, the other with long style and short filaments.*

“O sacred flowers of faith and hope,  
As sweetly now as then,  
Ye bloom on many a birchen slope,  
In many a pine-dark glen.”—WHITTIER, “*The Mayflowers.*”



FTER the Puritans landed on the bleak New England coast they passed through a terribly severe winter. The first sign of returning life and hope was the appearance in the Plymouth woods of the sweet blossom, which they christened the “Mayflower,” in fond remembrance of the ship that bore them to the new world, of the bloom that gladdens the hedges of old England in the fairest of the months. Since then the “matchless, rose-lipped, honey-hearted trailing arbutus” has had a never failing significance to the pilgrims and their descendants,—emblem of their struggle and their hope.

“Puritan flowers are the type of Puritan maidens,  
Modest, and simple, and sweet,”

writes Longfellow.

In the first rare days of spring, on the wooded hillside, where the first faint rays of the sun have warmed the frozen soil into life, we find the “pale pink flowers,” almost hidden beneath their leaves. What a delicious fragrance they exhale; what a subtle, indescribable fragrance! Truly this is the choicest of our wild flowers.

PLATE 42.

BLADDER CAMPION. SILENE VULGARIS (INFLATA). (PINK FAMILY.)

*Perennial; stems smooth, branching from near the base; leaves opposite, sessile, ovate-lanceolate, acute, thickish, with a prominent midrib, the uppermost reduced to scale-like bracts; flowers in panicled cymes; calyx large, inflated, net-veined, often purplish; petals five, very delicate, white.*



RETTY is this plant that has come to us from Europe, and has become well naturalized in easterly regions. It is often met with at roadsides and in fields, and may be easily recognized by the curious inflated calyx. On this account it is sometimes called “cow-bell” with us, while in England it is known as “white bottle.” The name, “Bladder Campion,” refers to the same characteristic, campion meaning, “growing in fields.” The calyx is further remarkable for its exquisite veining. The petals are pure white and very delicate, fading quickly. Shelley’s line,

“Flowers that die almost before they sicken,”

would aptly describe them.

The genus *Silene* contains many handsome species. Of our native kinds, we might mention the Pennsylvania catchfly, which has large pink flowers, delicately fringed. The scarlet catchfly has blossoms of a flaming red. Those of the royal catchfly (*silene regia*) are of the same color.

*Silene* is named for Silenus, a god of Bacchus’ train, whom the Greeks represented as an old gentleman, in a highly intoxicated condition. Many of the species are quite viscid. *Silene antirrhina*, a small-flowered, night-blooming species of dry fields, has dark colored, sticky bands between the joints of the stem.



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EPIGÆA REPENS.

TRAILING ARBUTUS.

MAY.



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SILENE VULGARIS (INFLATA).

BLADDER CAMPION.

JUNE.

PLATE 43.

FIELD IRIS, ROAST BEEF PLANT. IRIS FOETIDISSIMA. (IRIS FAMILY.)

*Stem erect, creeping rootstock, one or two feet high, leafy; root-leaves much longer than the caulin ones, ensiform, very acute; flowers on short peduncles at the summit of the stem; sepals purple, longer than the petals. Perennial.*

“Blue flags, yellow flags, flags all freckled,  
Which will you take? Yellow, blue, speckled!  
Take which you will, speckled, blue, yellow,  
Each in its way has not a fellow.”—CHRISTINA ROSSETTI.

HE flags have always been favorites with the poets. In Europe there are so many beautiful kinds and they grow in such abundance that it would be strange if they did not attract lovers of Nature. Shelley, whose descriptions of plants are always appropriate, who had a wonderful faculty for humanizing and bringing near to us the flowers, loved to sing of

“Broad flag-flowers, purple, pranked with white.”

Emerson, who may be ranked with Bryant and Whittier in his knowledge of wild-flowers and in the beauty of his descriptions of them, alludes to the flags that border the lakes in the Adirondacks :

“Files of flags that gleamed like bayonets.”

Iris foetidissima is a European species that has become sparingly naturalized here and there in the North, having escaped from cultivation in gardens. It is a common wood-plant in southwestern England. The people call it “Roast-beef Plant” because its odor is supposed to resemble that of the viand so beloved of John Bull.

PLATE 44.

CELANDINE. CHELIDONIUM MAJUS. (POPPY FAMILY.)

*A perennial, somewhat glaucous; stems erect, much branched, fragile, containing a yellow juice; leaves large, pinnately parted or divided, segments coarsely toothed or lobed; flowers umbellate on a long peduncle, rather small; sepals two, small; petals four, much larger, yellow; stamens numerous.*

“There’s a flower that shall be mine,  
‘Tis the little Celandine.

Modest, yet withal an elf,  
Bold, and lavish of thyself;

Since we needs must first have met  
I have seen thee high and low,  
Thirty years or more, and yet  
‘Twas a face I did not know;  
Thou hast now, go where I may,  
Fifty greetings in a day.”—WORDSWORTH.



LIKE the bloodroot, its brittle stems contain an orange-colored juice, so that the plant seems to bleed when wounded. According to Wordsworth the flowers are favorites with the bees. In England it blossoms much earlier than with us, hence the name Chelidonium from the Greek for “swallow,” because the flowers appear with the swallow.

Delicate as is this little European, it is thoroughly at home in Eastern North America. We need not regret its introduction. It is a harmless weed, and the flowers are quite pretty. It is often to be met with in waste ground and hedge-rows.

“Thou dost show thy pleasant face  
On the moor and in the wood,  
In the lane, there’s not a place,

Howsoever mean it be,  
But ‘tis good enough for thee,”

wrote the Lake Poet who loved the celandine and studied its habits.

Chelidonium is a near relative of the poppy, the beautiful Californian Eschscholtzia, and of our bloodroot.



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IRIS FOETIDISSIMA.

FIELD IRIS.

JUNE—JULY.



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CHELIDONIUM MAJUS.

CELANDINE.

MAY.

PLATE 45.

BINDWEED. VOLVULUS CALYSTEIA SPITHAMÆUS. (CONVOLVULUS FAMILY.)

*Very leafy, stem erect, six to eighteen inches high, pubescent; leaves alternate, petioled, ovate, mucronate, usually truncate, sometimes heartshaped, and unequal at base; flowers on long axillary peduncles, with two large bracts surrounding the calyx; corolla open campanulate, white.*

“White cups whose wine  
Was the bright dew yet drained not by the day.”—SHELLEY.



UCH are the flowers of this pretty convolvulus, pure white chalices, open to the sun, closing toward nightfall and in cloudy weather. This bindweed is a not uncommon plant of dry, upland fields, blossoming in summer. Its erect habit distinguishes it from most of the species of volvulus, which are climbers, as both the Latin and the English names indicate.

A well known species is the volvulus arvensis, a common European corn-field weed. It is widely naturalized in eastern North America and is becoming a great nuisance to farmers. The creeping stems form dense mats on the ground. The plant manifests a “dog in the manger” inclination to crowd out everything else. One of these plants was placed by Linnæus in his famous “floral clock,” its flowers opening at two and closing at eleven in the morning. Like the scarlet pimpernel, the species of volvulus are supposed to forecast the approach of rain by the closing of the blossoms.

“Blithe-hearted or sad, as the cloud or the sun subsided.”

Some species of volvulus are very popular in cultivation; but the plants usually known in gardens as “convolvulus” are ipomæas. The common morning-glory is ipomæa purpurea. The cypress-vine is ipomæa quamoclit.

PLATE 46.

BELLFLOWER. CAMPANULA RAPUNCULOIDES. (BELLFLOWER FAMILY.)

*Perennial; stem tall, erect, slightly puberulent, often purplish; leaves alternate, on short, winged petioles, the upper nearly sessile, broadly ovate, cuneate at base, irregularly toothed, veiny, thin; flowers in the axils of the bract-like upper leaves, forming a compound raceme; corolla large, campanulate, deep blue.*

“Tender bluebells at whose birth  
The sod scarce heaved.”—SHELLEY.

“How the merry bluebells ring.”—TENNYSON.



HIS is one of the showiest of the bluebells. It is a native of Europe and Siberia, brought to this country and cultivated in old fashioned gardens. Here and there it has escaped into roadsides and wandered as far south as Pennsylvania. It flowers in summer. Two other species of campanula are frequent in gardens, campanula glomerata which has run wild in Massachusetts and other Eastern States; campanula medium, a native of Germany, long known in English gardens by the pretty name of “Canterbury Bells.”

In the “language of flowers,” the bluebell is a token of constancy. We might almost fancy such a quality in its tender blue.

The bellflower family is almost confined to temperate regions. These plants are especially abundant in the North Temperate Zone and in South Africa. They are not remarkable for any peculiar properties, medicinal or other. Their beauty seems their sole excuse for being. Besides the bluebells themselves, the beautiful wahlenbergias and the pretty little “Venus’ looking glass” belong to this family.



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VOLVULUS (CONVOLVULUS) SPITHAMÆUS.

BINDWEED.

JUNE.



— 46 —

CAMPANULA RAPUNCULOIDES.

BELLFLOWER.

JUNE

PLATE 47.

WINTERGREEN. PYROLA SECUNDA. (WINTERGREEN FAMILY.)

*Stem erect from slender, rather woody, subterranean rootstocks; foliage leaves round-ovate, closely serrate, petioled, clustered toward the base of the stem, bearing a terminal, one-sided raceme of flowers; calyx small; petals five, greenish white.*



OUR wintergreens are among the most interesting of our wild flowers. They were formerly considered as belonging to the great heath family, which contains so many of our beautiful native plants. But they are now usually placed in a small family by themselves. They are quite handsome little plants, with their cluster of thick, shining green leaves and their white or greenish blossoms. In pyrola secunda the raceme or cluster of flowers is oddly one-sided. This species is quite widely distributed in Europe and in Northern Asia as well as in North America. Here, it is found, secluding itself in deep woods.

It is not from these plants that the fragrant oil used in flavoring confectionery and for other purposes is obtained. The checkerberry or false wintergreen is the source of the "oil of wintergreen." The name pyrola means "a little pear." The thick shining leaves somewhat resembling those of the pear tree. The common name refers to the evergreen foliage. We have several kinds of wintergreen in North America. One of the most common is the "shin-leaf" (*pyrola elliptica*), the leaves of which are supposed to heal hurts and bruises, hence the common name. Whether its curative powers are confined to the member indicated or not, is an unsettled point in medicine.

PLATE 48.

LIVERLEAF. HEPATICA ACUTA (AUCTILOBA). (CROWFOOT FAMILY.)

*Acaulescent, soft-hairy, roots fibrous, clustered, from a short rootstock; leaves on long petioles, reniform, three-lobed, lobes acutish; flowers long peduncled, subtended by a three-leaved involucre simulating a calyx; petals none; sepals petal-like, pink, lavender or blue, sometimes white, usually eight or ten in number; stamens and pistils numerous. Perennial.*

"The squirrel-cups,\* a graceful company,  
Hide in their bells, a soft aerial blue—  
Sweet flowers that nestle in the humblest nooks,  
And yet within whose smallest bud is wrapped  
A world of promise!"—BRYANT.

**F**OLLOWING fast in the footsteps of the skunk-cabbage and the trailing-arbutus, indeed often preceding the latter, comes the dainty liverleaf. In March, or even, in southern latitudes, in February, the buds, "wrapped in bud-coats hairy and neat," peep out of the ground at the first summons of the spring sunshine. We have two sorts of hepatica, the round-leaved and the acute-leaved. The former has flowers of every shade of blue, from almost white to the deep color of a tropical sky. The latter has flowers of a delicate pink or lilac. Which is the prettier, 'twould be difficult to say. The round-leaved species is native also in Europe. Both kinds are widely distributed in eastern North America, the hepatica acuta preferring mountain regions. In regard to the odor of the hepatica, Mr. Burroughs writes: "There are individual hepaticas, or individual families among them, that are sweet-scented. The gift seems as capricious as the gift of genius in families. You cannot tell which the fragrant ones are till you try them."

\* Another name for the hepatica.



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PYROLA SECUNDA.

WINTERGREEN.

JUNE



— 48 —

HEPATICA ACUTA (ACUTILoba).

LIVERLEAF.

MAY.

# WARNING

Subscribers are warned against the danger of losing any of the parts or series of the "Wild Flowers," as it is impossible to buy them, and no guarantee can possibly be given that missing numbers may be supplied.

The index and many chapters of absorbing interest upon the marvels of plant life and curious facts about flowers, all appropriately and profusely illustrated, will be given with the last part, and all holders of previous parts will be entitled to them without extra cost, to bind with their volumes.



